

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	138828
Inspection date	30 August 2007
Inspector	Christine Bonnett

Type of inspection	Childcare
Type of care	Childminding

ABOUT THIS INSPECTION

The purpose of this inspection is to assure government, parents and the public of the quality of childcare and, if applicable, of nursery education. The inspection was carried out under Part XA Children Act 1989 as introduced by the Care Standards Act 2000 and, where nursery education is provided, under Schedule 26 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998.

This report details the main strengths and any areas for improvement identified during the inspection. The judgements included in the report are made in relation to the outcomes for children set out in the Children Act 2004; the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding; and, where nursery education is provided, the *Curriculum guidance for the foundation stage*.

The report includes information on any complaints about the childcare provision which Ofsted has received since the last inspection or registration or 1 April 2004 whichever is the later.

The key inspection judgements and what they mean

Outstanding: this aspect of the provision is of exceptionally high quality

Good: this aspect of the provision is strong

Satisfactory: this aspect of the provision is sound

Inadequate: this aspect of the provision is not good enough

For more information about early years inspections, please see the booklet *Are you ready for your inspection?* which is available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk.

THE QUALITY AND STANDARDS OF THE CARE

On the basis of the evidence collected on this inspection:

The quality and standards of the care are good. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The childminder was registered in 1993. She lives with her husband in Ruislip Manor, in the London borough of Hillingdon. The ground floor of the house is mainly used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of five children at any one time and is currently minding four children under five. One child attends full time and the others attend part time. She also minds one child over five years on a part time basis.

The childminder drives to local schools to take and collect children. The childminder attends the local parent and toddler group and is a member of a local childminder support group. The family has three cats and a tortoise as pets.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are looked after in a home that is maintained to a good standard of cleanliness, which enables them to play on the floor with no risk to their health. The childminder helps children to learn good self-care skills as she encourages them to wash their hands at appropriate times of the day.

Children enjoy plenty of active play as they make good use of the back garden. They also walk to local parks to benefit from physical exercise. Children's health is further promoted as the childminder holds a current first aid certificate. She also has effective procedures in place to manage accidents and administer medication.

Children benefit from being provided with healthy and nutritious snacks by the childminder that take account of their individual dietary needs. Biscuits, milk and fruit are routinely offered. Water is available for the children to help themselves throughout the day. Parents supply their child's main meals, which are stored appropriately to ensure they are fresh before serving.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a safe and secure environment where they are well supervised by the childminder. Space is well organised and used appropriately to meet children's needs. For example, art activities are carried out in the kitchen/diner, whilst ample space is available for children to investigate and explore play materials comfortably in the lounge. Equipment, such as a travel cot and booster-seat high chair are safe and in good condition to enable younger children to sleep and eat in comfort.

Children have access to a good selection of safe and suitable play materials that enable them to make progress in all areas of development. Their independence is promoted as items are stored in easily accessible boxes and storage units to enable them to help themselves.

Children's safety is important to the childminder, particularly in the event of an emergency. She has devised an evacuation procedure from the premises and practises it with children to ensure they are able to leave the home quickly and safely, should the need arise. Children's welfare is further protected by the childminder's good understanding of child protection issues and the procedures to follow if she has concerns about a child in her care.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are given warm, affectionate care by the childminder. They become confident, relaxed and enjoy their day. A large variety of play resources are available for children of all ages to enjoy. Planned activities that are stimulating and pleasurable are provided, including making bread-pudding. A particular favourite is dressing-up. The children have great fun changing from Spiderman to Snow White, and squeal with excitement when the skeleton appears behind them. Children are also keen to look at books, and the childminder builds upon this appreciation by taking them on regular trips to the library.

Children interact well together and with the childminder. Lots of verbal praise and encouragement is given as well as smiles and cuddles to help children feel secure and develop good self-esteem. The childminder makes sure all children are engaged in an activity that interests them. For example, older children can concentrate on drawing quietly at the table, while the younger ones play with a construction set on the floor.

Children also benefit from the opportunity to socialise with others as they routinely visit playgroups and a childminding drop-in group.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children's individual needs are met because the childminder obtains all relevant information from their parents to ensure she gives them appropriate care. This helps children to feel settled and secure. Appropriate resources are provided to encourage children's awareness of diversity, such as books and puzzles.

Children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities are welcome in the childminder's home as she has a positive attitude towards this area of childcare, and some experience. However, she needs to gain knowledge of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 to ensure that she is aware of her responsibilities as a service provider.

Children's behaviour is good as they are busily engaged in their play. Suitable strategies are used to manage any behavioural problems that may arise. Older children learn about the boundaries for good behaviour as the childminder is consistent in applying the rules of the house, such as sitting down when eating, and tidying up the toys. In addition, the use of good manners is also encouraged as children learn to be considerate towards each other and share the toys.

Children benefit as the childminder has good relationships with parents. She understands the importance of working in partnership with parents to ensure the arrangement runs smoothly. Written contracts are used, and all relevant information is shared between the childminder and parents on a daily basis to ensure consistency of care for the children.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children feel comfortable and at ease within the childminder's home. The available space lets children play unhindered in a clean and well maintained environment. The childminder has established a good routine to ensure she is able to meet the individual needs of all the children in her care. She organises the day to include a range of play experiences both indoors and out that the children enjoy. This helps to ensure the children's overall developmental progress.

Children's health, safety and well-being are promoted as the childminder maintains accurate and up-to-date records. They include all the required details and are readily available for inspection. In addition, the effective working relationship the childminder has with parents also adds to the children's sense of well-being and contentment. As a result, the childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection, the childminder was required to enhance the welfare of children by ensuring all existing injuries to children, and significant events are noted. Details are now recorded to promote the wellbeing of the child.

The childminder was also required to extend the range of play resources to include imaginative play and games for older children. Children now enjoy the increased range of items, which includes a play house, tea set and dressing-up clothes. A selection of board games is also available for older children to enjoy.

A further requirement at the last inspection was to improve hygiene standards by reviewing hand drying and nappy changing procedures. The childminder now uses disposable changing mats for the younger children, and older children dry their hands on disposable towels to prevent the risk of cross-infection between them.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since 1 April 2004 there have been no complaints made to Ofsted that required the provider or Ofsted to take any action in order to meet the National Standards.

The provider is required to keep a record of complaints made by parents, which they can see on request. The complaints record may contain complaints other than those made to Ofsted.

THE QUALITY AND STANDARDS OF THE CARE

On the basis of the evidence collected on this inspection:

The quality and standards of the care are good. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT MUST BE DONE TO SECURE FUTURE IMPROVEMENT?

The quality and standards of the care

To improve the quality and standards of care further the registered person should take account of the following recommendation(s):

- gain knowledge and understanding of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 to ensure awareness of the duties it imposes upon service providers.

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the leaflet *Complaints about Ofsted Early Years: concerns or complaints about Ofsted's role in regulating and inspecting childcare and early education* (HMI ref no 2599) which is available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk